

2017 -- H 6268

LC002779

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE BISHOP HENDRICKEN HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC
DECATHLON TEAM ON WINNING THE 2017 DIVISION II ACADEMIC DECATHLON
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Casimiro, Regunberg, and Amore

Date Introduced: May 30, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In 1983, an organization from California called the United States Academic
2 Decathlon was looking for an innovative way to stoke interest in their newly created program
3 designed to highlight academic achievement. The organizers decided to launch their new
4 competition, which featured 10 different academic disciplines, by sending invitations to schools
5 across the United States, inviting them to compete in this national event. One of the schools that
6 responded was Hendricken High School; and

7 WHEREAS, Bishop Hendricken accepted the initial challenge, returning home with a
8 couple of gold medals in individual academic subject areas. Since then, Bishop Hendricken has
9 returned to the national finals, after winning the Rhode Island State Event, on several occasions,
10 but last week they accomplished something no Rhode Island team had ever accomplished,
11 winning first place and beating out thirteen other schools, including a team from China, in the
12 event held in Madison, Wisconsin; and

13 WHEREAS, Possibly the most impressive thing about Bishop Hendricken's victory is
14 that they won with a team made up of mostly rookies, with only senior Ryan Brady returning
15 from last year's team. Team Coach, Sister Carol Ann Murray initially had her doubts about her
16 team's chances but thanks to her leadership and the tireless devotion put forth by each team
17 member, Bishop Hendricken dominated the state competition, compiling 20,000 more points than
18 the second place finisher, and showing that they were a team to be reckoned with at the national
19 competition; and

1 WHEREAS, During the finals, Bishop Hendricken faced stiff competition from rival
2 teams from Wisconsin and China, but ultimately prevailed and made Rhode Island High School
3 history. The team was blessed to be led by longtime team coach and Chemistry teacher Sister
4 Carol Ann Murray, who not only motivated her students to perform their best but also, at the
5 conclusion of the event, used her powers of prayer to help lead her team to victory; and

6 WHEREAS, Winning a competition in a team event like this requires that every member
7 put team goals ahead of individual goals and Bishop Hendricken was fortunate to have an
8 abundance of these kinds of fine young men as they were led to victory thanks to the hard work
9 proffered by Steven Huang, who earned within the A division, gold medals in music, math and
10 science, silver in economics, speech and essay, and bronze in art, Dylan Temel, who earned
11 within the A division, gold medals in economics and speech, and silver in art, and bronze in
12 music, math, science and social science, Mitchell Boyer, who earned within the B division, a gold
13 medal in essay, and silver in speech and science, Connor Milson, who earned within the B
14 division bronze medals in language and literature, Alden Pratt, who earned within the B division,
15 bronze medals in essay, science and speech, Ryan Brady, who earned within the C division, gold
16 medals in economics, music, language, and literature, science and social science, silver medals in
17 art and speech, and a bronze medal in essay, Darragh Harkin, who earned within the B division, a
18 gold medal in interview, and Jaidan Idarraga, who earned a bronze medal in math within the B
19 division. In addition, five students placed individually, with Steven Huang placing first and Dylan
20 Temel second within the A division, Mitchell Boyer and Alden Pratt placing second and third
21 respectively within the B division, and Ryan Brady placing first in the C division. Cory Morris
22 also ably assisted the team within the A division; now, therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
24 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates the Bishop Hendricken High School Academic
25 Decathlon Team on winning the 2017 Division II Academic Decathlon National Championship;
26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
28 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Sister Carol Ann Murray, Coach, Bishop
29 Hendricken Academic Decathlon Team.

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